

BACKING CAN BE DEADLY

The California FACE Program has investigated two highway construction deaths in the last year. These two deaths happened when heavy equipment drivers backed over workers. The workers were in the blind spots of the drivers. All the equipment had working back-up alarms.

AN INSPECTOR KILLED BY A BACKING ASPHALT DUMP TRUCK

A construction inspector died when an asphalt dump truck backed over him. The truck was bringing asphalt to a road being paved. The inspector was wearing an orange reflective vest and hardhat. The truck traveled about 770 feet in reverse before backing over the inspector. The inspector had his back to the vehicle. The truck driver said he was traveling about 5 to 10 miles per hour when the incident occurred. The driver never saw the inspector.

A CONSTRUCTION FLAG PERSON DIES AFTER BEING BACKED OVER BY A TRUCK

A construction flag person died when a dump truck backed over him. The truck was bringing dirt to the center of a six-lane street. The truck had just entered the lane closest to the center. This lane was separated from the rest of the lanes with tubular markers. The truck was backing into position to dump a load of dirt onto the center. The flag person had just let the dump truck into the separated lane. The flag person was wearing an orange reflective vest and hardhat. The dump truck's back-up alarm was working properly. The truck traveled



only a few feet in reverse before backing over the flag person. The driver looked into both of his tractor's side rear view mirrors and did not see the flag person. The flag person had his back to the vehicle.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Require drivers to get out and check behind their trucks before backing.
- ▶ Use a second person as a spotter when backing heavy equipment.
- ▶ Additional safety devices can help warn workers of a backing heavy vehicle. Other devices can warn drivers when someone is behind them.

For more information on safety issues regarding safe backing practices, please visit the following website: www.dir.ca.gov/title6/1592.html (Title 8, subchapter 4, article 10, Section 1596)

For complete fatality reports of these or other cases, and information on the FACE Program, contact the California Department of Health Services, Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1901, Oakland, CA 94612, or visit our website at www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/ohsep/face.

PLEASE POST

California Department of Health Services
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1901
Oakland, CA 94612

FACE is a public health program run by the California Department of Health Services (DHS) and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). **FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation."** The purpose of the **FACE** program is to find problems that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them.